TREASURY DEPARTMENT
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Press Service
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The Bureau of the Mint today delivered to the Treasurer of the United States first supplies of the new wartime penny made of zinc-coated steel.

The coins will go into circulation throughout the country as banks requisition supplies through the Federal Reserve System.

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, said the new coin, developed by Mint metallurgists, will save large amounts of copper for war use. Last year, coinage of the one-cent piece required 4,600 tons of copper.

The wartime penny, authorized by the last Congress, bears the familiar Lincoln design. It is the same size as the copper cent, but is slightly lighter in weight. Newly struck, it has a silvery appearance not unlike that of a dime, but the cent-piece darkens quickly with handling.

The penny is stamped from steel strips that have been given a thin coating of zinc to prevent rust.

Mrs. Ross said the prevailing copper piece now in use would remain in circulation, but that no more would be struck during the shortage of strategic materials.

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